



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Stephen Robert Carkeek
Serial No.: 09/486,629
Filed: March 1, 2000
For: TABLE OR COUNTER MAT
Docket No.: 16591/105 (formerly f295100)

Examiner: A. Wachtel
Group Art Unit: 1771

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL WITH
SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON MAY 29, 2002 (37 CFR 1.8a).

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office communication mailed November 29, 2001, please amend the
above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (amended) A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure
comprising a non-slip backing layer; a top liquid absorbent textile surface for resting cups, mugs
or glasses; and an intermediate stabilization layer joining the backing layer to the textile surface
wherein the resultant mat is absorbent and readily able to be laundered.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 3 wherein the nitrile
rubber is in the range of less than 2 mm thick with a density of about 1000 grams per square
meter.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (twice amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 3 wherein the
intermediate stabilization layer comprises a heat curable material curable at temperatures greater